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Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council containing the proposed additional resource requirements for 2017 for the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/71/365/Add.9). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 15 February 2017.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provided an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues, with five addenda covering the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III (A/71/365/Add.1-5). The budget proposals for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi (both under cluster I), the United Nations Mission in Colombia (under cluster III) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (under cluster II) were presented in separate addenda (A/71/365/Add.6, Add.7 and Corr.1 and Add.8 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee's comments and

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recommendations of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions, including its comments on the Kuwait Joint Support Office, are contained in its main report (A/71/595). Its comments and recommendations regarding the budget proposals for the various clusters, as well as those missions presented separately, are contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8). The Committee's comments and recommendations on the initial resource requirements for the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (thematic cluster II) were presented in its related report (A/71/595/Add.2) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/272 (sect. XIX, para. 2).

Mandate and planning

3. As described in paragraphs 1 to 7 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Panel of Experts was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) and its mandate has subsequently been extended, most recently in resolution 2276 (2016), until 24 April 2017. The Secretary-General indicates that, in response to a fifth nuclear test and numerous ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, conducted in violation of relevant Council resolutions, the Council adopted, on 30 November 2016, resolution 2321 (2016), by which it significantly expanded existing sanctions measures and established new measures.[1] The Council requested regular monitoring and reporting on a real-time basis from Member States, the Panel and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) with regard to the coal ban.

4. The Panel, which reports to the Security Council through the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), is composed of eight members: a coordinator (an expert in air transport) and seven other experts in the areas of customs and export control, finance, missile technology, maritime transport, nuclear issues, weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, arms control and non-proliferation policy. The Panel is mandated to carry out tasks in accordance with several Council resolutions[2] and, among other things, assists the Security Council Committee in carrying out its mandate; gathers, examines and analyses information, in particular with regard to incidents of non-compliance; makes recommendations on actions for consideration by the Council, the Security Council Committee or Member States; determines and transmits to the Security Council Committee, within 30 days of the end of each month, an estimate of the average (mean) price of the coal exported in the previous month from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and submits a midterm report and a final report on its work, including findings and recommendations, for discussion by the Security Council Committee and subsequent submission to the Council.

5. The request of the Secretary-General for additional requirements, as described in paragraph 20 of his report, derives from paragraph 42 of resolution 2321 (2016), in which he was requested to provide additional administrative and analytical support resources to increase the capacity of the Panel. This includes requirements for processing documentation, maintaining the Security Council Committee's sanctions list and vessels list, managing the Security Council Committee's database and the website in the six official languages, preparing and dispatching notification

[1] The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, with the adoption of resolution 2321 (2016), the sanctions regime had expanded further beyond nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities to include significant new elements in the area of sectoral bans (coal, iron and iron ore, non-ferrous metals, rare earth minerals and aviation fuel) and the strengthening of sanctions measures in the areas of finance, transportation, interdiction and inspection and proliferation networks.

[2] Resolutions 1874 (2009), 1928 (2010), 1985 (2011), 2050 (2012), 2094 (2013), 2141 (2014), 2207 (2015), 2276 (2016) and 2321 (2016).

letters to Member States, providing meeting support and updating the Security Council Committee's documentation and procedures.

6. The revised objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, performance measures and additional outputs of the Panel under its expanded mandate are set out in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General.

II. Revised resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017

7. The revised planning assumptions for the Panel are described in paragraphs 10 to 21 of the report of the Secretary-General. As shown in table 1, the resources approved for the biennium 2016-2017 amount to some $5 million. The Secretary-General is requesting an additional amount of $697,400 (net), which would result in total resources of $5.7 million for the biennium. An overview of the proposed additional resource requirements for 2017 is provided in paragraphs 22 to 25 of the report of the Secretary-General.

Table 1
Total resource requirements (net)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Appropriation 2016-2017* (1)	*Additional recurrent requirements* (2)	*Additional non-recurrent requirements* (3)	*Total additional requirements* (4)=(1)+(2)
I. Civilian personnel costs				
1. International staff	916.7	464.1	–	1 380.8
Total, category I	**916.7**	**464.1**	**–**	**1 380.8**
II. Operational costs				
1. Experts	3 415.9	40.0	–	3 455.9
2. Official travel	116.8	–	–	116.8
3. Facilities and infrastructure	510.4	114.4	–	624.8
4. Ground transportation	3.0	–	–	3.0
5. Communications	21.0	3.3	–	24.3
6. Information technology	51.8	35.6	4.3[a]	87.4
7. Other supplies, services and equipment	3.3	40.0	–	43.3
Total, category II	**4 122.2**	**233.3**	**4.3**	**4 355.5**
Total requirements	**5 038.9**	**697.4**	**4.3**	**5 736.3**

[a] The additional requirements of $4,300 for information technology are included in the aggregate amount of $35,600 for that budget item.

Civilian personnel

8. The approved staffing requirements for 2017 and the proposals for additional staffing are summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Professional and higher categories									*General Service and related categories*			*National staff*			
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	*Subtotal*	*Field/ Security Service*	*General Service*	*Total international*	*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*
Approved 2017	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	2	4	–	–	–	4
Proposed 2017	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	–	5	–	4	9	–	–	–	9
Change	–	–	–	–	**1**	**2**	–	–	**3**	–	**2**	**5**	–	–	–	**5**

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General.

9. The approved staffing requirements for 2017 consist of four posts (2 P-3 and 2 General Service). The Secretary-General indicates that, in connection with the expanded mandate emanating from resolution 2321 (2016) and the revised planning assumptions, it is proposed that an additional five posts be established in New York, as follows:

(a) To provide support to the Security Council Committee:

(i) One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) (see also paras. 11-12 below);

(ii) One Political Affairs Officer (P-4) (see also para. 13 below);

(iii) One Meetings Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (see also para. 15 below);

(b) To provide support to the Panel:

(i) One Political Affairs Officer (P-4);

(ii) One Research Assistant (General Service (Principal level)).

10. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table showing the impact of resolution 2321 (2016) on the workload of the Panel, the Security Council Committee and the Secretariat (see annex). The Advisory Committee was informed that, while the number of experts on the Panel remained unchanged, the Panel's workload was expected to increase.[3] In addition, the Secretariat would be tasked with specific reporting on coal-related matters and needed to assist the Panel in preparing its midterm report.

11. With regard to the proposed post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) to provide support to the Security Council Committee, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the incumbent would act as the Committee's Secretary and be responsible for directing the range of secretariat services in support of the Committee and its Chair, including formulating the programme of work and budgets, directing subject-related research and overseeing the monitoring and reporting requirements with regard to the total amount of coal originating in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exported to Member States, as mandated in paragraph 26 of resolution 2321 (2016). In addition, he or she would be responsible

[3] The Advisory Committee was informed of the following workload changes stemming from resolution 2321 (2016): (a) with regard to the Panel, a 26 per cent increase in communications, a 38 per cent increase in cases to investigate and a 17 per cent increase in consultations with relevant interlocutors; and (b) with regard to the Security Council Committee, a 76 per cent increase in communications, a 65 per cent increase in notes from the Chair and a 96 per cent increase in Member State reporting and related procedures.

for meeting the real-time monitoring and reporting requirements in relation to the coal ban set out in that resolution.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that, upon the establishment of the Security Council Committee in 2006, the related responsibilities of its Secretary had been absorbed by an existing Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) located in the Security Council Affairs Division who had also been tasked with supporting other sanctions committees and working groups. It was also informed that, at that time, the related responsibilities had been limited, given that the Panel had yet to be established, and there had been no management responsibilities because no other Division staff members were working on issues relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

13. Regarding the proposal to establish one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4), the Advisory Committee was informed that the incumbent would report to the above-mentioned proposed Senior Political Affairs Officer and assist in the range of secretariat services in support of the Security Council Committee and its Chair for the overall organization of work, including the organization of special meetings of that Committee. He or she would also provide substantive support by maintaining contacts with other parts of the United Nations, other international and regional organizations and Governments and assist the Senior Political Affairs Officer in meeting the monitoring and reporting requirements set out in paragraph 26 of resolution 2321 (2016).

14. **While acknowledging that the expanded mandate emanating from resolution 2321 (2016) and the resulting revised planning assumptions are likely to lead to an increased workload, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that, at this stage, the extent of the additional tasks can be quantified in a reliable manner. The Committee points out that the above-described responsibilities of the proposed posts of Senior Political Affairs Officer and Political Affairs Officer appear to be duplicative and not sufficiently distinct as to justify the establishment of two separate posts in the Professional category. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) at this time. The related non-post requirements should be adjusted accordingly.**

15. Regarding the proposed establishment of one post of Meetings Assistant (General Service (Other level)), the Advisory Committee was informed that the incumbent would be responsible for the provision of meeting services to the Security Council Committee and assist the Secretary of that Committee in providing related administrative, technical and logistical support. **The Advisory Committee considers that, given that the Security Council Committee has been operational since 2006 pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), no adequate justification exists to increase meeting services support at this time. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the post of Meetings Assistant (General Service (Other level)) at this time. The related non-post requirements should be adjusted accordingly.**

Operational costs

16. As indicated in table 1, the resources approved for operational costs for the biennium 2016-2017 amount to some $4.1 million. The Secretary-General is requesting an additional amount of $233,300 (net), which would result in total operational resources of $4.35 million for the current biennium.

Travel-related resources (other supplies, services and equipment and official travel)

17. With regard to other supplies, services and equipment, the resources approved for the biennium 2016-2017 amount to $3,300. The Secretary-General is requesting additional travel-related resources of $40,000, which would result in total resources under that item of $43,300 for the current biennium.

18. The Advisory Committee was informed that the additional requested amount of $40,000 would cover the cost of miscellaneous services required by the Panel when travelling away from Headquarters or during regional meetings, such as local transportation and other local support costs. Specifically, it was planned to hold an additional regional meeting of the Panel in the Asia-Pacific region. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the amount was inclusive of an amount of $24,000 for the cost of travel to and related daily subsistence allowance for Singapore for eight experts and two accompanying Secretariat staff for five days for the meeting. The remainder would cover related logistics, meeting services (interpretation services, photocopying and so forth) and the rental of premises. In that connection, the Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that Singapore had been identified as a possible destination for the workshop considering the Panel's activities in the region but that, in the light of relevant future developments and the availability of United Nations resources in the region, the destination might be changed.

19. With regard to official travel, the resources approved amount to $116,800; no additional resources are requested for that purpose. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that only some 6 per cent ($6,870) of the resources under official travel had been spent as at 31 December 2016, with 94 per cent ($109,930) available for the remainder of the biennium.

20. **The Advisory Committee is therefore of the view that the cost of travel for two staff members accompanying the Panel to the regional meeting could be covered from the approved resources for official travel for the biennium 2016-2017. The Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly a corresponding reduction of $4,800 in the proposed resources for other supplies, services and equipment. Furthermore, the Committee reiterates its view that existing United Nations system facilities should be used, to the greatest extent possible, for meetings and related activities (see also A/71/811, para. 14).**

III. Recommendation

21. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve the additional resources in the amount of $523,000 (net of staff assessment) for the Panel for 2017;**

(b) **Appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, an additional amount of $523,000 (net of staff assessment) under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;**

(c) **Appropriate an amount of $49,500 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**

Annex

Impact of resolution 2321 (2016) on the workload of the Panel of Experts, the Security Council Committee and the Secretariat

New/increased activity	*Entity affected*		
	Panel	*Committee*	*Secretariat*
Listing of individuals/entities (annexes 1 and 2 to resolution 2321 (2016))	X	X	X
New embargoes on materials, equipment, goods and technology (annex 3 to resolution 2321 (2016))	X	X	
New conventional arms dual-use list		X	
Measures relating to leasing, chartering and crew services	X	X	
Measures relating to vessels	X	X	X
Measures relating to scientific and technical cooperation	X	X	X
Measures relating to cargo and fuel	X	X	X
Notifications relating to the coal ban		X	X
Updating information on the procurement of coal in "real time"		X	
Calculation of the average (mean) price of coal	X		
Calculation of the value of coal procurement and notification of 75 per cent, 90 per cent and 95 per cent levels			X
Special meetings	X	X	X
Overall Committee communications		X	X
Member State reports		X	X
Overall Panel communications	X	X	X
Panel cases/investigations	X		
Panel's consultations with relevant interlocutors	X		
Midterm report of the Panel	X	X	X